



Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot *Gretna, LA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

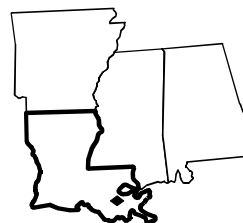
BACKGROUND

The City of Gretna is a small, 160-year old city, combining historic neighborhoods with an industrial riverfront corridor. The City has targeted this riverfront corridor for revitalization. Within Gretna, 30 percent of all residents live below the poverty level. Minority residents, many of whom live along the riverfront corridor, comprise almost 40 percent of the population. The shortage of available land in Gretna, a city three-square miles in size, makes the re-use of brownfields imperative. Gretna is an EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilot and has developed an inventory of potential brownfield sites.

BCRLF OBJECTIVES

Gretna's BCRLF objectives include the creation of new jobs, an increase in tax revenues, the reduction of pollution levels, and the involvement of multiple stakeholders in land use decisions. Several potential borrowers and sites have been identified along the riverfront near minority communities. The City also will market the BCRLF program to business owners who may own or wish to redevelop small brownfield sites.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$500,000

BCRLF Target Area:
Riverfront Corridor

Gretna, Louisiana

Contacts:

Mayor of Gretna
(504) 363-1505

Region 6 BCRLF
Coordinator
(214) 665-6688

Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/region06/waste/brown/index.htm

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The City of Gretna will serve as lead agency and the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission will act as fund manager. The City of Gretna will serve as site manager and will work closely with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to fulfill these responsibilities.

LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES

The US Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans Office and the City are working to develop a cost sharing arrangement that would provide up to 50 percent of cleanup costs at priority sites. State capital outlay grants are another likely source of cleanup funds. To further leverage the BCRLF, Gretna may consider the use of US Department of Transportation funds and US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant funds, Brownfields Economic Development Initiative funds, Economic Development Initiative funds, and Section 108 funds. In addition, the City will examine redevelopment assistance from the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development program. The State of Louisiana has indicated its willingness to provide funds to Gretna from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund. The City also is actively examining other possible funding sources. Developers of targeted brownfield sites also are eligible for two state tax incentive programs. The Gretna BCRLF will market the Federal brownfield tax incentive program as another tool for prospective borrowers to utilize.

Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.
